

# PUBLIC WORKS BOARD MEETING MINUTES



**Monday, August 23, 2021  
12:00 p.m. Belknap  
Conference Room**



***THOMAS LLEWELLYN, CHAIRMAN***

- 
1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call – All members present
  3. Approval of Minutes – June 21, 2021
- Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Wanzenried and seconded by Mr. Enright
- 

## **NEW BUSINESS**

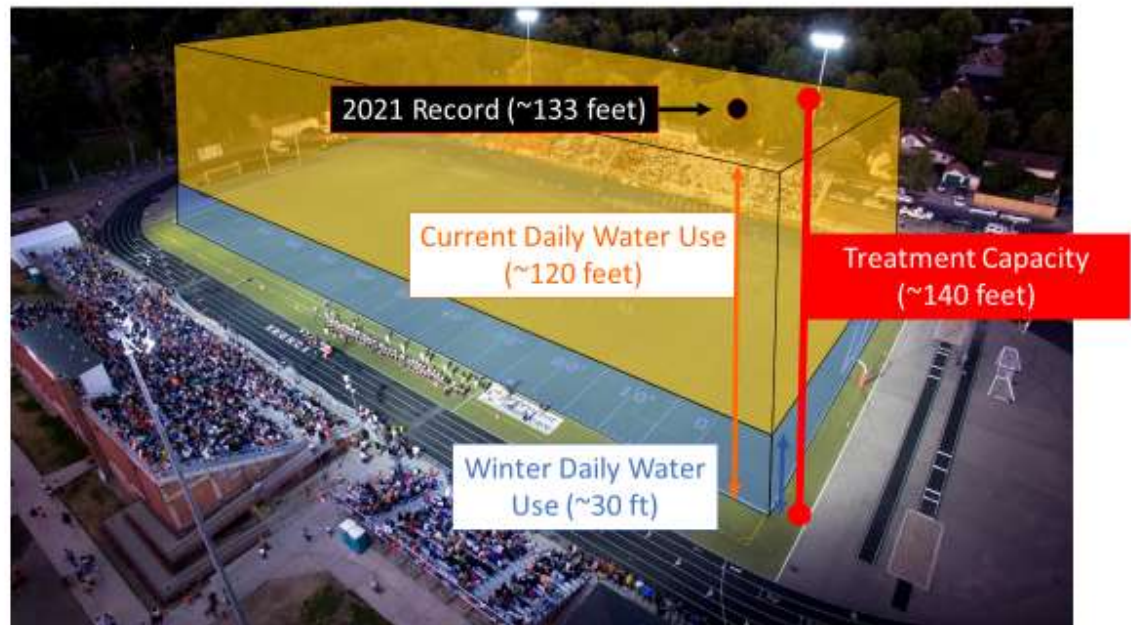
1. **Solid Waste Presentation** – Kyle Foreman is the new superintendent for the Solid Waste Division. Mr. Foreman gave an overview of the Solid Waste services that are provided for the City of Billings. These services include the landfill, residential and commercial service, and 20, 30 and 40 yard roll off containers. The operating budget is \$17 million with \$9.1M in collection, \$6.1M for the landfill, and the remaining budget for administration.

The Billings landfill processed 340,000 tons of waste last year with approximately 75% in municipal solid waste (MSW). The landfill also handles 68,000 pounds of hazardous waste, composts 19,000 tons of yard waste, and maintains compliance with permits and regulations. The largest group of waste is construction and demolition debris from contractors.

Challenges for the department include staffing, growth of the city, methane compliance, future landfill development, and funding. There will be some changes to residential extras starting September 6<sup>th</sup>, the extra's pick up will change from weekly to monthly. All bulky waste like mattresses, couches, etc. must be scheduled and there will be a fee. Construction materials such as drywall, flooring, or lumber will not be picked up on residential routes. These changes will allow for more efficiency with current staff.

Solid Waste will continue to convert the 300 gallon containers in alleys to 95 gallon carts for all residential customers. The department will always look at new technology that will help improve services to the city.

2. **Water/Wastewater Presentation** – Louis Engels, Utility System Engineer, discussed the challenges of providing water during this hot and dry summer. Mr. Engels used a football field as an example of how much water city residents were using this summer (see below). Mr. Engels explained why it was important to enact a water restriction for irrigation on Mondays as Billings was getting close to the maximum capacity for water treatment.



The Water Quality Department has 50 employees that includes an engineer, operations, laboratory, electrical & automation, and facility maintenance staff. The main functions of the department are to treat and deliver water to drinking water standards and to treat all wastewater to meet MPDES permit requirements. The budget for is \$12.M with \$5.8M for water and \$6.4M for wastewater.

The Water Quality Division treats over 8 billion gallons of water a year, along with maintaining the laboratory, 16 reservoirs, and 13 pump stations. Challenges with staffing, infrastructure capacity (heat), growth (Heights Water District), and the supply chain are no different for the Water Quality Division.

The Public Works Board asked about the results of the implementation of the water restrictions. Mr. Engels was impressed on how well citizens responded. There was a 40% decrease the first Monday of the water restriction and a 10% decrease over the entire week that continued over the three week period.

The Water Reclamation Facility reclaims 6.9 billion gallons of wastewater annually that has to meet Montana discharge limits, along with EPA and DEQ compliance.

Wastewater also has issues with staffing, infrastructure capacity, growth, supply chain, regulatory requirements, and increasing FOG (fats, oils, and grease). The new nutrient removal system is a little more temperamental with FOG than the old system. However, those issues have been addressed.

The Westend Water Treatment Plant is in design with an approximate completion date of 2024. The primary focus will be treatment of drinking water with a capacity of 60-78 mgd.

3. **Reminder** - City of Billings Boards and Commissions Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Billings Community Center. Board members will be receiving an invitation by mail.
4. **Other Business** – Ms. Meling will be attending the Housing Summit on August 24<sup>th</sup> that Mr. Llewelyn is coordinating with 155 attendees. Mr. Wanzenreid asked about imposing further water restrictions and Mr. Engels is hoping they won't have to be put in place again. However, Public Works does have other water restriction plans if necessary in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05